

**Science Advisory Council
February 19, 2003
Dept. of Community and Economic Development
Minutes**

Those in attendance:

Troy Takach, Chair
Michael Brehm, Brehm Environmental
Gary Hooper, BYU
Brent Miller, USU
Sue Johnson, Futura Industries
Rick Allis, Dept. of Natural Resources
CeCe Foxley, Board of Regents
Mike Keene, State of Utah-DCED
Ray Gesteland, U of U
George Simon for Greg Critchfield, Myriad Genetics

Guests present:

Tim Miller, Echelon
Rich Kendell, State of Utah
Brett Moulding, State of Utah

The meeting was called to order by Council Chair, Mr. Troy Takach at 2:00 p.m.

**Welcome Members by Board Chair, Troy Takach
Recognition of Voting and Non-Voting Board Members
Review of December 11, 2002 minutes.**

There were minor changes to the minutes. The minutes were not approved, the will be reviewed with the suggested changes at next meeting.

Troy Takach added an additional agenda item for the review of the National Museum of Naval Aviation.

Rich Kendall, Deputy for Education, State of Utah

Rich Kendall presented about the New Century High Schools. He discussed the opening date, curriculum, math science, information technology and engineering. The plan is to open six new schools throughout Utah. The first school will open this September that will be housed at Cottonwood High School. The second school will be hosted by Jordan School District and SLCC. The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation donated \$3.5 million and the legislature appropriated \$2.0 million for facilities. This is for grades 9-12 with the goal of completing the first year of college by graduation, with students entering in at a sophomore level. The student body shall consist of no more than 500 students with small classrooms of 25 or less. The intent is to have people from industry to come and teach as well as professors from local universities. Registration and sign ups for the first school will start this summer with the first class to start this fall. To avoid taking all the good math and science teachers from the schools, the hope is to recruit the retired etc. to keep this from happening. Some business partners have volunteered to help with the engineering, computer side, and the architectural sides of things and others have given donations in equipment, money, guest lectures, internships

etc. This is an open enrollment, open admission, public school with a self-selection process. After Rich's presentation, there was open discussion about the new high schools.

Mike Keene, State Science Advisor

The Annual Report of the Centers of Excellence program has been published. Instead of a mass printing being done, it has just been posted on the website at www.utah.gov/techdev to save money in tight budget times. A copy was provided to each SAC member. There are a number of successes that have come out of the Centers program including Bioremediation, which is graduating early with a company that was formed with the total of 20+ employees. Mike gave an overview of the program and of the funded centers.

There are several other activities going on including the bid for the 2007 ISEF conference, the capital campaign for the Science Center, along with a visit to the Challenger Learning Center in Phoenix, AZ, that occurred at the first of this month.

Tim Miller, President, Echelon Biosciences

Echelon Biosciences is a spin-off from the Center for Cell Signaling. Tim Miller is the President of Echelon and he provided a folder with company information along with several brochures from this company. Echelon is a private biotechnology company and a leader in the field of lipid cell signaling research and product development. There are three steps in the corporate strategy that Echelon operates under. The first is to develop a product line, then develop high throughput assays and then utilizing the internally developed assays to discover molecules with therapeutic potential for cancer and diabetes. Echelon has had \$1.2 million in sales the past year. Further discussion was held followed by a question and answer period. For more information on this company visit www.echelon-inc.com

Committee Reports

Nominating Committee – Sue Johnson. The process went very smoothly this year and Troy has asked Sue to put a procedure together so this process can be followed in the future.

Governor's Medal – Brent Miller. The January deadline has passed and there were 25 persons nominated. This information was distributed to the nomination committee and was reviewed by them. Only 5 nominations were eliminated. There are generally 10 awards. There was some confusion about which categories the nominee's were placed in. In the second round it was clarified that each category needs to be reviewed closely. There will be another meeting held to determine the winners in March. There was a Special Category created last year for people that would likely not be nominated under the other categories. Last year Mario Capecchi was the recipient of this award. Willem Kolff was discussed as a possible candidate. He would be a great candidate for this award. Another prominent Utahian has not been nominated was Rex Spendlove. There were a few other names that were mentioned. Nothing further was discussed about nominating a special candidate, the medals committee will discuss further at a future meeting.

There were several negative comments received about the cost of the Governor's Medal from the community. The cost of the Governor's Medal is very insignificant when looking at the overall picture. There is the cost of mailing at .275 a piece and the copies. The total comes to about \$1000 plus the awards luncheon. This is a very small piece of the pie when looking at millions of dollars in the State budget. There is a need to strengthen the description of the funding of the Governor's Medal and provide the information where the money comes from.

SAC Business

Approval from Governor's Office regarding board nominees -The nominations have been sent to the Governor's office for the vacant positions. Mike will call Nancy Brown to get an update.

A resignation letter was received from Gary Lund. Pete Doenges will be sending a resignation letter as well.

Revised wording on Parowan Gap Resolution. The wording has been changed as requested by UDOT to indicate "requests" instead of "charges". The changed resolution was voted on and approved by the council.

Brochure revision-The revised brochure was sent around for comment from the council. Numerous comments were made and changes suggested. Some copy is still to be written. The development can be through DCED or USU.

The National Museum of Naval Aviation paid a visit to Troy Takach and left a brochure and CD-Rom with him for review. They have a lot of interesting things that are going on and would love to come and make a presentation to the SAC and are looking for donations.

The next meeting will be held April 16, 2003, location TBD.

Meeting was adjourned at 4.15 p.m.